

## West Service Planning Area Injury Fact Sheet, 2001

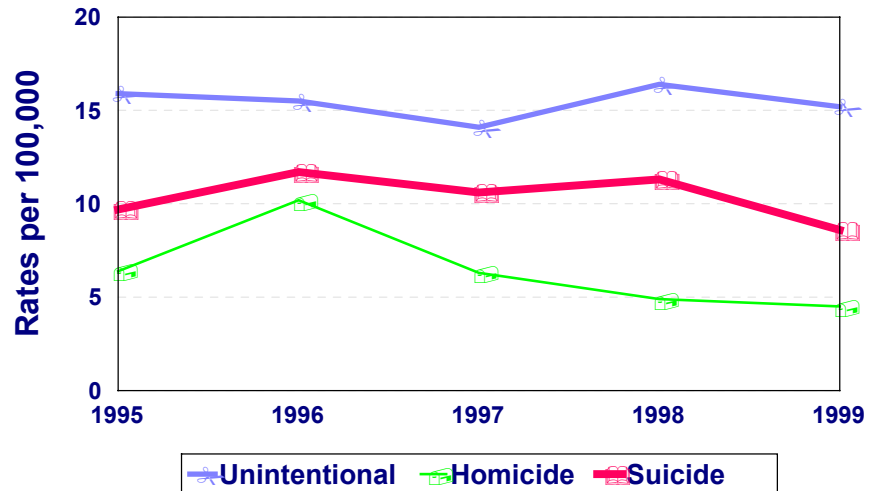


Injury is a significant preventable public health concern and comprises nearly 6% of deaths in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Injuries kill more people under age 45 than all other causes of death combined.<sup>2</sup>

Injuries are often categorized by intent and the behaviors of the people involved, thus, unintentional or intentional. Unintentional injuries include falls, poisoning, motor vehicle injuries, and drowning. Intentional injuries include homicides and suicides, and injuries resulting from assault or the use of weapons.<sup>3</sup>

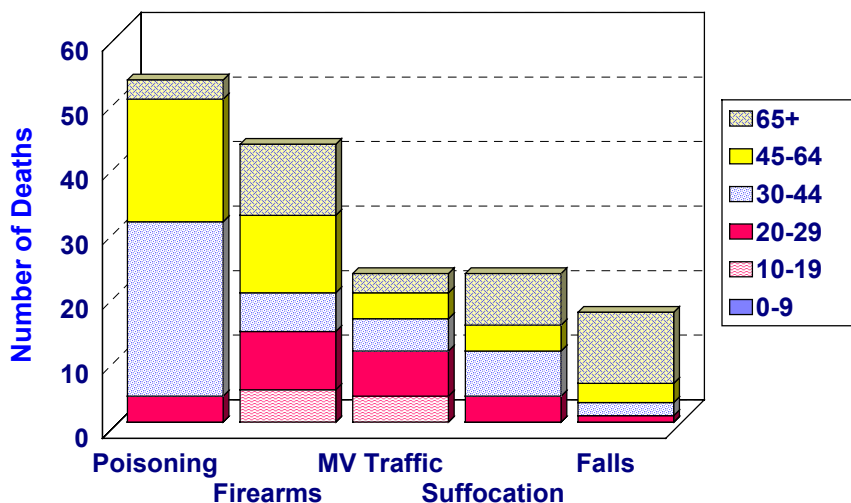
In the United States, a total of 10,194 unintentional deaths and adverse events among children (less than 18) were reported in 1998, identifying motor vehicle traffic, drowning, fire/burn, and suffocation as the major leading causes of death for this age group.<sup>4</sup>

### Annual Injury Fatality Rates\* by Intent West Service Planning Area, 1995-1999



West SPA Epidemiology  
Data provided by the LAC Injury and Violence Prevention Program  
Rates are defined as cases per 100,000 population.

### Leading Causes of Injury Deaths, By Age Group West Service Planning Area (SPA 5), 1999



West SPA Epidemiology  
Data provided by the LAC Injury and Violence Prevention Program

For every childhood injury fatality there were an estimated 34 injury related hospitalizations, 1,000 emergency department visits, and many more medical office visits. Childhood injuries commonly occur at home, in connection with water, intense heat or flames, toxic agents and household products, stairwells, and loaded firearms.<sup>7</sup> In Los Angeles County, the leading causes of death among children in 1999 included firearms, motor vehicles, and suffocation.

In California<sup>5</sup> and Los Angeles County (LAC), injury is the leading cause of death among infants, children and adolescents, 0-19 years of age, regardless of gender or race/ethnicity.<sup>6</sup> Every year, children sustain injuries requiring medical intervention and bed rest.

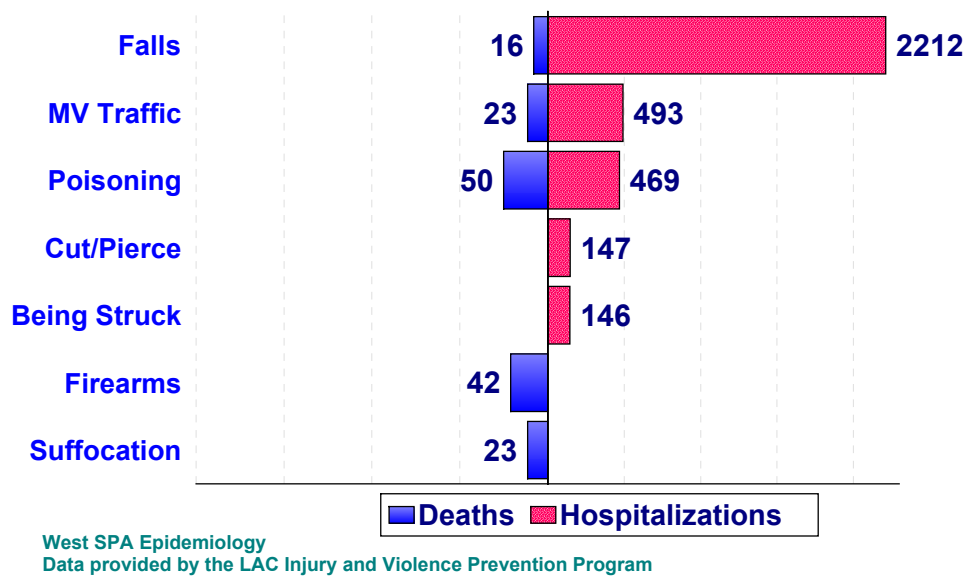
A total of 176 injury related fatalities occurred in the West SPA in 1999. Of this total, 12 were among children. Injury deaths among children were highest in the 15-19 age group and included firearms and motor vehicle fatalities.

Fatal firearm injuries among children in the West SPA included 4 cases of homicide and 1 unintentional death. Three (60%) of the victims were African-American and the remaining 2 (40%) were Hispanic.

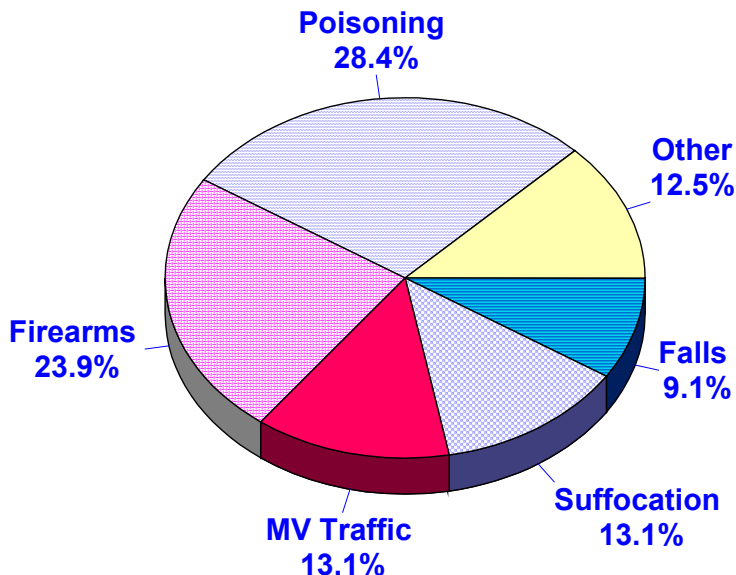
There was a total of 38 injury fatalities among adults 65 or older. Falls, suffocation, and firearm injury deaths ranked highest in this age group.

Fatal firearm injuries among the older adults were all suicide related in the West SPA. All ten cases (100%) were white males. Suffocation deaths among the elderly were mainly suicide related as well (6, 75%), and were mainly among women (5, 62.5%). The majority of cases (4, 67%) were White, followed by 17% Hispanic,

## Leading Causes of Injury Deaths and Hospitalization, West Service Planning Area (SPA 5) 1999



## Leading Causes of Injury Deaths, West Service Planning Area (SPA 5), 1999



West SPA Epidemiology  
Data provided by the LAC Injury and Violence Prevention Program

and 17% Asian.

The five leading causes of hospitalization in all age groups in Los Angeles County and the West SPA in 1999 were related to falls, vehicular collisions, poisoning, being struck by or against objects, and cut/piercing.

The overall hospitalization rates have been fairly stable in the West SPA between 1997 and 1999, ranging from 610-617 cases per 100,000 population. The SPA injury death rates however have dropped by 12.2%, from 32.7 in 1998 to 28.7 cases per 100,000 population in 1999. Homicide rates in particular have decreased by 8.2%, from 4.9 in 1998 to 4.5 cases per 100,000 population in 1999. There is a 23.8% reduction in suicide rates from 11.28 in 1998 to 8.6 cases per 100,000 population in 1999.

Effective prevention strategies are the most practical means to reduce violence and promote a peaceful, healthy, and productive lifestyle across communities.

- 1,2- <http://www.cdc.gov/epo/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00049162.htm>
- 3- The Health of Angelinos: LAC. DHS, 2000.
- 4,5- <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/osp/data.htm>
- 6- <http://lapublichealth.org/ivpp/news/phl698.htm>
- 7- <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/child.htm>